

WELCOME TO THE 2006 "From Deployment to Employment: A Training Forum on Services and Employment of Wounded Service Members."

With great pleasure, I welcome you to the first, "From Deployment to Employment: A Training Forum on Services and Employment of Wounded Service Members." The Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) is the host for this event. For the past two years, the Department of Defense CAP staff members have been committed to providing needs assessments, assistive technology, and training to our nation's wounded service members throughout their recovery and transition to employment. CAP implemented the Wounded Service Members initiative, entitled "From Deployment to Employment," in partnership with the military treatment facilities and other program offices.

The overarching goal of the forum is to improve the information, process, and opportunities to reemploy our returning wounded service members through collaboration and coordination among the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Labor.

The objectives for you are to learn about the various programs and assistance available to wounded service members, and to become knowledgeable about the programs sponsored by the other agencies at each level of the process. The forum will provide training on available assistive technology, and ensure you understand how to request training and technology on behalf of wounded service members. It will also make certain you are familiar with the direction and guidance of the senior leadership, so you can implement the programs effectively.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today. I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to learn about what is available to assist our wounded service members, and share your experiences with each other. Thank you for helping advance our initiative "From Deployment to Employment."

Sincerely,

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)